CLAIMS:

1. A method for the treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound which inhibits the formation or release of β-amyloid and a therapeutically-effective amount of a nitric oxide releaser.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the nitric oxide releaser is a nitrate ester of an alkanol.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein said inhibitor and said nitric oxide releaser are combined in a single dosage formulation.

4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said inhibitor and said nitric oxide releaser are combined in a compound of formula I:

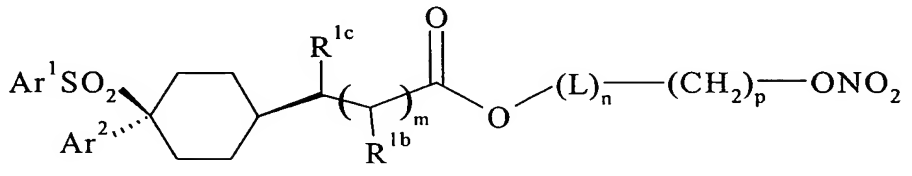
$$R\text{-}CH_2\text{-}ONO_2$$

I

where R is such that $R\text{-}CH_2OH$ or R–CHO is an inhibitor of the formation or release of Aβ;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. A compound suitable for use in the method of claim 1, said compound being of formula II:



II

wherein:

m is 0 or 1;

n is 0 or 1;

p is an integer in the range 1-6;

L is a linking group;

R^{1b} represents H, C_{1-4}alkyl or OH;

R^{1c} represents H or C_{1-4}alkyl;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 independently represent phenyl or heteroaryl, either of which bears 0-3 substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, NO_2, CF_3, CHF_2, OH, OCF_3, CHO, CH=NOH, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{2-6}acyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl and C_{1-4}alkyl which optionally bears a substituent selected from halogen, CN, NO_2, CF_3, OH and C_{1-4}alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. A compound according to claim 5 wherein m is 1 and R^{1b} and R^{1c} are both H.

7. A compound according to claim 5 wherein Ar^1 is 4-chlorophenyl or 4-trifluoromethylphenyl and Ar^2 is 2,5-difluorophenyl.

8. A compound according to claim 5 wherein L is represented by the formula:

$$-L^1-C(O)O-$$

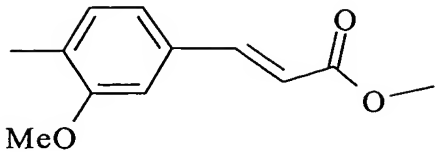
wherein L^1 is a hydrocarbon residue of up to 10 carbon atoms, optionally bearing up to 3 substituents selected from halogen, CN, OH and C_{1-4}alkoxy.

9. A compound according to claim 8 wherein L^1 represents

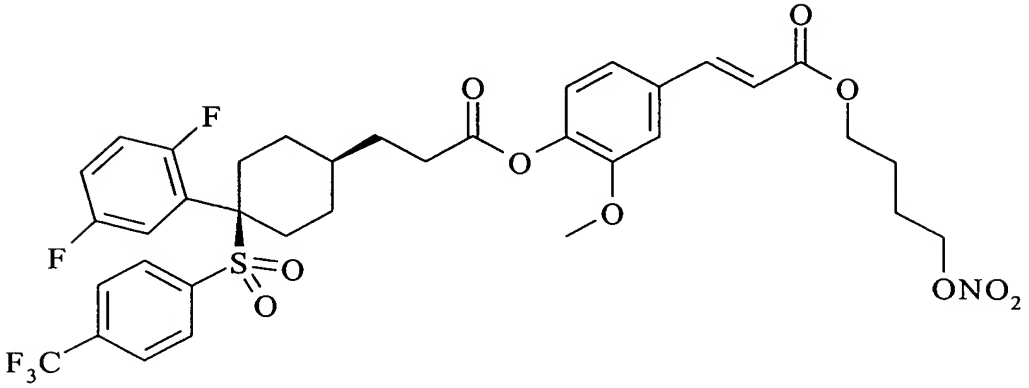
$$-Ar-CH=CH-$$

wherein Ar is a phenyl group bearing up to 2 substituents selected from hydroxy and methoxy.

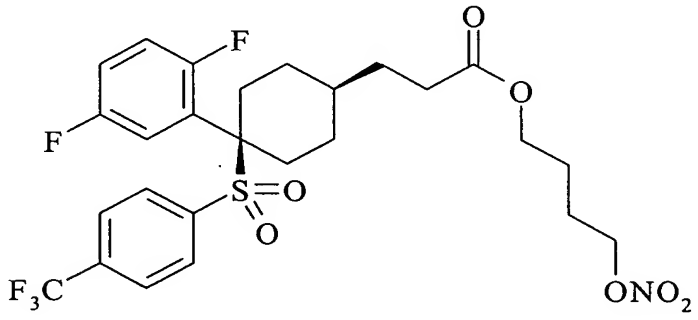
10. A compound according to claim 5 wherein L represents:



11. A compound according to claim 5 selected from:



and

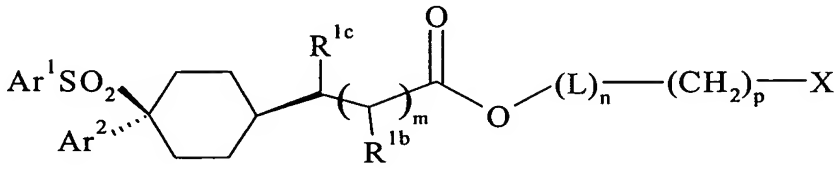


and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. A method of treatment of a subject suffering from or prone to Alzheimer's disease which comprises administering to that subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 5.

14. A method of preparing a compound according to claim 5 comprising reaction of a compound of formula III with silver nitrate:



III

where X represents chlorine, bromine or iodine, and m, n, p, L, R^{1b}, R^{1c}, Ar^1 and Ar^2 are as defined in claim 5.